

- Allen Memorial
- Beaver Dam
- Bethany
- Bethany Hispanic
- Bethel
- Bethlehem
- Boiling Springs
- Buffalo
- Calvary
- Camps Creek
- Carpenter's Grove
- Casar
- Christ Covenant
- Christian Freedom
- Christopher Road
- Community
- Crestview
- David
- Double Shoals
- Double Springs
- Dover
- Eastside (KM)
- Eastside (Shelby)
- Elizabeth
- Emmanuel
- Faith
- Fallston
- Flint Hill
- Gethsemane
- Grover First
- Hope Community
- Immanuel
- Joy Christian
- Kings Mountain
- Kings Mtn. First
- Kings Mtn. Second
- Lattimore
- Lawndale
- Lily Memorial
- Living Hope
- Macedonia
- Midview
- Mt. Sinai
- Mulls Memorial
- New Bethel
- New Camp Creek
- New Covenant
- New Hope
- New Jerusalem
- New Prospect
- Norman's Grove
- Northside
- Oak Grove
- Oak View
- Pathway
- Patterson Grove
- Patterson Springs
- Peach Street
- Peoples
- Plains View
- Pleasant City
- Pleasant Grove
- Pleasant Hill
- Pleasant Ridge
- Polkville
- Poplar Springs
- Ross Grove
- Sandy Plains
- Shelby First
- Sunrise
- Temple
- Trinity
- Union
- Victory
- Waco
- Wallace Grove
- Washington Missionary
- Westover
- Westview
- Westwood Heights
- Zion
- Zion Hill
- Zoar

Office: 704-482-3472

Website: gccba.org



Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association

Uniting congregations in effective missions and ministries

Assistance Office:
704-481-9119

Counseling Center:
704-472-1437

THE BEACON

Volume 61, Issue 12

December 2019

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Christmas

Christmas is the LIGHT that burns eternally. It is a glow that warms the hearts of people wherever the message of "peace on earth to those of good will" is believed.

Christmas is PEACE in a world where people have been alienated from each other by hatred and jealousy.

Christmas is JOY of fellowship, of giving, of sharing of lifting, of caring and of being what Christ wants us to be.

Christmas is FORGIVENESS, the time for fresh beginnings, a time to right the wrongs of yesterday.

Christmas is GIVING to those who cannot give to us. It is visiting the neglected, lifting the fallen, giving hope to the hopeless, assuring victory to the defeated, living the spirit of good will to all humankind.

Christmas is SURRENDER of one's life to Christ in renewed dedication, which makes Christ the Lord of our Lives.

Share Christ the season!

Thoughts from our Staff.....

Words from Wesley....

"Go and proclaim this message to the north. "Return, faithless Israel,' declares the Lord, 'I will frown on you no longer, for I am faithful ,' declares the Lord, I will not be angry forever. Only acknowledge your guilt -you have rebelled against the Lord your God, you have scattered your favors to foreign gods under every spreading tree, and have not obeyed me," declares the Lord." Jeremiah 3:12

The past several months I have been sharing some articles and podcasts on church revitalization. Some of that information is not flattering or joyful. I shared with the messengers and those who attended the Tuesday, Fall Bi-Annual Meeting session some difficult news and numbers regarding our churches. I have had several conversations with church members who are saddened by their current church situation. For many it seems there is no hope.

All in the scriptures there are seasons of hopelessness in God's people. There are good and bad times, ups and downs. Seasons of God's silence and mighty movements of the Holy Spirit. That is what I love about the Gospel! We are not without hope! God has been about rescuing and restoring his creation since the fall in Genesis 3.

The Winter Bible Study for 2020 is on The Book of Jeremiah. I pray that you will listen and study attentively to the words of God through the Prophet Jeremiah. There is a word from God for today's church in this great book! God is speaking to us! We must admit that we have turned from God and have not been obeying all he commands. We have not been making disciples, we have allowed our traditions and religion to come before God himself. Our temples are filled with empty worship. We have forsaken God.

Hope is come! Jesus is here! He is alive and dwells among his people. Those who have acknowledged their sin. Those who need a Savior and Redeemer! God desires for His Church to bring Him glory. Paul says that in Ephesians 3:20-21. As we celebrate the coming of the Messiah, may we do so humbly, acknowledging our sin and need for Jesus in our personal lives and the corporate life of the church!

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory and the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14



The choir at my church will be presenting the Christmas play How to have the best Christmas ever and one of my favorite songs is To hold the Savior. It always leads me to reflect on how Mary felt when Jesus was born. Was she scared and nervous, was she excited and happy? I think she was all of these and more! Can you imagine the awe she felt as she looked at the tiny hands and feet of her Savior. The song challenges us to allow our hearts to be the manger that cradles Jesus. To do this we need to feel the awe that Mary felt as we look at that tiny baby that was born on Christmas. Oh what a difference it would make in my life if everything I said and did reflected the Glory of God. This Christmas let's all make a commitment to stop and admire our Savior that lays in the manger.

Katie



Thoughts from our Staff.....

Christmas is Coming A Year of Work and Victory in Christ

Everything completed this year is due to the direction of the Holy Spirit by His Grace. Our mission comes from the heart of Christ who sends us to do His work. We take His message to multiply the believers. In 2019, we planted and scattered seeds of the Gospel and God is still cultivating and harvesting. We share the Gospel within our communities. We want to put into practice Christ's message during the holidays. John 13:34 tells us to "love one another." We have to rely on God to love others. Romans 12:10 takes this a step farther by directing us to "love one another with brotherly love." God wants us to go against society to love, respect, and remain loyal to one another. Holidays are a time to practice Romans 15:7 and "receive one another." God wants us to look for the needs of others, help meet the needs we can, and use this to share His message. Christmas is a time to think about forgiveness. God wants us to show forgiveness, ask for forgiveness, and remember His forgiveness to all. We need to thank God for the holiday season and use the opportunities He gives us. Thank you for reading, and I pray God blesses you this season.

Pastor Jose A. Espinal, Hispanic Missionary Blessings.

Education and Network Opportunities

Pastors:

Ministers Conference

Monday, January 6, 2020
Dr. Chuck Campbell,
Strategy Coordinator, NCBSC
Prayer Time 11:00am, Lunch 11:30am,
Program 12:00pm

Monthly Pastor and Youth Pastor Fellowships.

See back side calendar for times and locations.

1st Thursday- Grover/Kings Mtn. Pastors Fellowship

2nd Thursday- Lattimore Pastors Fellowship

3rd Thursday- Polkville/Waco Fellowship

Pastor and Youth Pastor Prayer Time

YM Prayer Time **3rd Tuesday** 12:00 PM

Pastor Prayer Time- **3rd Wednesday** 10:00 AM

Ministers & Spouses Christmas Dinner Monday, December 2, 2019 at 6:30 pm



at Elizabeth Baptist Church

We want to encourage you to make your reservation for this time of food, fellowship and inspiration! There is no charge for the meal. This is for our ministers who are active as well as those who are retired.

Please call or email Nicole and make your reservation by November 22!

Leadership and Business Affairs Teams Meeting

Jan. 28, 2020 at 11:45 am in the downstairs conference room



"I give thanks to my God for every remembrance of you, always praying with joy for all of you in my every prayer, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." Philippians 1:3-5

Partners are important. No, they're essential! We're thankful for your partnership in many different ways. Your prayers and financial contributions are important!

Thank you for your 2019 contributions

Missions Opportunities

Jail Ministry

It is time for orientation for current jail ministry volunteers and new volunteer enrollment for the 2020-2022 Jail Ministry Volunteer programs. Below is the schedule of dates and locations for orientation for the month of November. Please make arrangements to attend one of the sessions that works best for your schedule. Each session will begin at 7:00pm and should last approximately one (1) hour. At this time you will receive volunteer packets and rule books. Thank you so much for your time and participation in this ministry.

November 25: Palmer Grove

You must attend a session to be a part of the jail ministry for the next two years.

imb

LOTTIE MOON
CHRISTMAS
OFFERING®

Week of Prayer December 1 - 8

Share the Warmth

The **Share the Warmth** Round Up program offers customer a way to help low-income individuals and families pay their monthly energy bills. Since 1985 the Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association has been the exclusive distributor for **Share the Warmth** in Cleveland County. You can also have a very important part in Share the Warmth by mailing your contributions in to the Duke Energy Foundation and having them matched dollar-for-dollar by the foundation. **MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO SHARE THE WARMTH FUND** and mail them to the following address:

Share the Warmth Fund
The Duke Energy Foundation
P O Box 35469
Charlotte, NC 28254-3429

May you and your family have warm celebrations while together at Thanksgiving and Christmas and let's reach out to families who are having a difficult time this year and need a little extra help with higher utility bills!

Community Thanksgiving Meal At the Shelby Mission Camp

You and your church are invited to be part of our Community Thanksgiving meal on Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 2019. We need help in a variety of ways in preparation, cooking, serving and delivery. You can be involved by:

- Pray
- Slicing Turkeys
- Cleanup
- Cooking
- Working on the serving lines
- Counseling
- Baking desserts
- Delivering meals (last year 786 meals were delivered)
- Financial support - Last year we served 934 total meals at about \$4.25 per meal. Could you or your church help with the cost?

Many have shared how blessed they were by participating in the Thanksgiving meal. Want you pray about being a part of this important community outreach to seniors, handicapped, needy and first responders? Call Janet or David Brown to sign up to help.

Janet Brown 919-337-2342

jbrown@ncbaptist.org

David Brown 919-422-9990

dbrown@ncbaptist.org

Office 704-487-5599

Compassion Ministry Report

Assistance Type: **Oct. 2019**

Food	47
Medicine	5
Power	62
Clothes	15
Other	2
Counseling	36
Total Assisted Units:	167

Missions Opportunities

Christmas Toy Store-

December 17th & 18th at the Shelby Mission Camp. We are still in need of volunteers to help at the Toy Store. If you are interested in helping with counseling or shopping please contact Katie at katie@gccba.org or 704-477-3395. This year we want to be able to provide wrapping paper or gift bags to the parents. We also need tape, boxes, bows, and tissue paper. If we have enough volunteers we would love to have a wrapping station where parents can have their presents wrapped while they wait. ** We will accept used gift bags that are in good condition ** **All toy donations are due by December 5th.** A list of toy suggestions are below:

Suggestions for toy donations to the GCCBA toy store:

For younger children (2-4): picture books, pull toys, squeeze toys, riding toys, educational toys

For girls (5-7): dolls, tea set, storybooks, board games, puzzles, coloring books/crayons, radios, purses, writing/drawing pads, riding toys, dress up clothes

For boys (5-7): trucks & cars, model car kits, throw games, bats & gloves, storybooks, remote cars, baseballs, board games

For boys & girls (8-10): board games, DVD's, electronic games, books, cd players, bats, gloves, baseballs, football, basketballs

For older boys and girls (11-12): jewelry, jewelry boxes, makeup, perfume, vanity cases, curling irons, hair dryers, craft kits, jewelry making kits, watches, board games, card games, DVD-games, basketballs, soccer balls, footballs, cameras, tackle box, fishing gear, diaries/journals, clips/barrettes, hats, skateboards, photo albums, mp3 players

- Cost of gifts should be around \$15 (up to \$20 for older children)
- Please no toys that promote violence



Friday Feed the Hungry Lunch Program

We are currently working on the 2020 schedule for the Friday Feed the Hungry Lunch Program. If your church is interested in providing sandwiches, chips, and cookies for 75 people please contact Katie Harris to schedule a date.



Jose and Maria Espinal are

available to come cook a meal for your church. The church in Nicaragua greatest need right now is transportation. All the proceeds will go to help them purchase a vehicle, so they can bring people to church. To schedule his group to cook a meal, please contact Katie Harris.

Block Party Trailer

Please remember our trailer calendar fills up fast for the Spring and Summer. If you already know your block party and VBS dates you need to call and reserve the trailer now! This is a wonderful tool that our churches can use to minister to their communities.



2019 GCCBA FOOD PANTRY NEEDED ITEMS: ** DIAPERS ALWAYS NEEDED **

Spaghetti sauce
spaghetti noodles
peanut butter
cereal
macaroni and cheese
Canned Meat
Toiletries: toilet paper, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, clothes detergent



The pantry always needs everything, but the items listed are what we go through the fastest!

GCCBA Bulletin Board

Pastors Anniversaries for December

Eastside KM:

Ron Caulder, 10 years

New Prospect:

Chris Devine, 3 years

Patterson Grove:

Tim Hendrick - 18 years



Pray for churches who are seeking a pastor.

Buffalo ~ FBC Shelby ~ New Bethel ~ Oak
Grove ~ Zoar



Pray for the following churches in the interim.

Calvary ~ Temple

Pray for these couples on their special day in December:

Patterson Grove - Tim and Rita - 18th

Mt. Sinai - Tim and Lisa Trexler - 19th

*Happy
Anniversary*



Office will be closed
Monday, December 23
through Wednesday, Janu-
ary 1. We will reopen
Thursday, January 2, 2020!

GCCBA Website

Please visit gccba.org to stay up to date with
GCCBA events and important announcements.



Please make a note that the
Association office will now
be closed every Friday.
We will be open Monday-Thursday
8:00-5:00 pm
You can reach us by email or
voicemail at any time.

Have a
Blessed &
Joyous
Christmas!



Church Needs.....

Bethany:

Bethany is seeking an inspired person **to lead a contemporary worship style**, to develop and organize the praise time and individuals. Contact Pastor Richard 704-300-1730

Bethlehem:

Bethlehem Baptist Church is seeking a **full-time Director of Children and Youth Ministries** to enhance its children and youth ministry programs by overseeing and providing Christ-centered activities that encourage spiritual growth and group involvement. The Director of Children and Youth Ministries Christ-centered activities that encourage spiritual growth and group involvement. The Director of Children and Youth Ministries will engage children, youth, and their families in order to help them grow and participate in the life and ministry of the church. Send resume's to bbckmnc@aol.com Full Job Description at gccba.org

Buffalo:

Buffalo Baptist Church in Shelby, North Carolina is seeking a **full time pastor** called by God to serve our church and community. We are a Southern Baptist congregation believing that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God and are seeking a dedicated, energetic and caring pastor sharing our belief. The pastor will need to lead 3 services each week, (Sunday morning, Sunday night and Wednesday night). Our pastor should be a man of the highest Godly character with God guided leadership and vision. He should have a minimum of 5 years ministry experience with a seminary degree. Please submit resumes including details of spiritual journey and calling by God to be a pastor, to: Pastor Search Committee, Buffalo Baptist Church, 108 Buffalo Church Road, Shelby, N.C. 28150 or via email to Bflopastorseach@gmail.com

Church Needs.....

Crestview:

Crestview Baptist Church in Shelby is searching for a **musical accompanist** (piano) to serve in a permanent part-time position. This will involve Wednesday nights and Sundays, plus planning/practice time. Send resume to: Crestview Baptist Church, 1090 Old Boiling Springs Road, Shelby, North Carolina 28152

New Bethel:

New Bethel Baptist Church in Lawndale, North Carolina is seeking a **full time pastor** who God is calling to serve our church and community. We are a conservative, mission minded, Southern Baptist Church family with strong ties to the community. Our church has traditional Sunday School and worship services. The pastor will lead 3 services each week (Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday evening), while working alongside a minister of music and a minister of youth and children to create the growth of the kingdom. Our pastor will be a man of the highest Godly character with God guided leadership and vision. He should believe the Bible is the true and inerrant word of God. After prayerful consideration, please submit resumes including details of your salvation experience and calling by God to be a pastor to; Pastor Search Committee, New Bethel Baptist Church, Post Office box 5 Lawndale, NC 28090. Resumes are currently being accepted.

New Prospect:

We are prayerfully seeking a **organist**. The organist would be responsible for playing the organ Sunday morning worship and choir practice on Wednesday evening after Bible Study. We welcome you to be a part of our church family. Please send resumes to the church: 1960 New Prospect Church Rd., Shelby, NC 28150

Oak Grove:

Oak Grove Baptist Church believes that God is calling one man to be the **pastor** for us, and we are focused on finding His will to locate this person. We have seen God at work within our church and believe that God's choice will bring Him honor and glory here at OGBC. While we are not putting restrictions on God's choice for us, we believe that His choice will have some theological training, believe the Bible to be the infallible and inerrant Word of God, and will provide messages and teachings reflecting this. We believe that God's choice will also be a kind and loving person who can share that love while providing biblical based preaching and teaching. He will work with a Minister of Music (part-time), a Minister of Youth/Children (part-time), and lay people on a full time basis to strengthen our commitment to God, His teachings and to our community, nation and world. Oak Grove Baptist Church is aligned with the Baptist State Convention of NC, and the Southern Baptist Convention. Applicants should apply by email at ogbsearchcomm@gmail.com or mail to Krista Smith, Chairperson Pastor Search Committee, Oak Grove Baptist Church, 1022 Oak Grove Road, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

Oak Grove Baptist Church is seeking an individual for the position of **Organist/Accompanist**. This is a 4 – 6 hour per week, part-time, salaried position. Position includes playing music for Sunday morning & evening services, choir practices and special planned events (cantata, revival, etc.) The qualified candidate should have a proficiency in playing the organ, have a knowledge of organ range of skills, the ability to sight read accompaniments. You should be self-motivated, have strong interpersonal skills, work well with other and be flexible with changes in work hours during the Christmas and Easter seasons. If want additional details, please email them to ogbsearchcomm@gmail.com Please submit your resume, reference, and video/audio sample of you playing (if possible) to: Oak Grove Baptist Church Attn: Music Committee 1022 Oak Grove Road, Kings Mountain, NC 28086 or email to ogbsearchcomm@gmail.com

Pleasant Hill:

Pleasant Hill Baptist is in need of a **pianist/choir accompanist** for Sunday morning worship and Wednesday night choir rehearsal. Music is traditional/blended style. Contact Amanda Lowery alowery52@gmail.com

Poplar Springs:

Poplar Springs Baptist Church is seeking an experienced **part time organist**. Responsibilities include playing all regularly scheduled Sunday Services, practice with choir on Wednesday night, playing for any specially scheduled church activities, funerals and weddings as needed. Resumes may be mailed to Personnel Committee, Poplar Springs Baptist Church, 1106 Poplar Springs Church Road, Shelby, NC 28152.

Shelby First:

First Baptist Church, Shelby, NC, is seeking a **Lead Pastor** to guide our church into its next stage of worship and ministry. Those interested in applying should send a letter of interest and resume to firstbaptist-churchshelby@gmail.com. FBC Shelby supports the mission agencies of the Cleveland County (NC) Baptist Association, the North Carolina Baptist State Convention, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Southern Baptist Convention. Full Job Description at gccba.org

Westview:

Westview Baptist Church is seeking a **Part Time Minister of Outreach and Assimilation**. The new position is designed for the person God calls and has gifted to reach others with the gospel. The position will require 25 -30 hours per week and would involve assisting the Pastor and Staff in weaving the church together in a seamless process in the community. This position will require organizational and administrative skills while implementing new ministries and enhancing existing ones through creative outreach, technology and media, while maintaining a missionary mindset. Please submit a written resume by mail to Westview Baptist Church, 500 Melody Lane, Shelby, NC 28150 on or before October 10, 2019, or by email to millie@wbcshelby.org.

Westview Baptist Church is seeking a **Church Secretary/Administrator** position which involves both secretarial and financial skills. The Secretary/Administrator will fulfill the day-to-day affairs of the church; perform general church office duties, provide administrative assistance to the church staff and chairpersons of each committee as it relates to the established procedures, operations, and ministries of the church. The Secretary/Administrator will also maintain accurate financial records of church contributions and expenditures. Skills required: knowledge of office computers and software (Microsoft Office Suite), desktop publishing, computer/accounting program. To apply, please send resume to: Personnel Committee, Westview Baptist Church, 500 Melody Lane, Shelby NC 28152 or email to: millie@wbcshelby.org

Zoar:

Zoar Baptist Church, Shelby, NC is currently seeking a **full-time pastor** who God is calling to serve our church and community. We are a conservative, Southern Baptist, family, community and mission oriented church that was established in 1837. We have traditional Sunday School and worship services with average attendance of 90 - 100. The pastor will lead three services each week (Sunday morning, Sunday evening, and Wednesday evening). He will work alongside a minister of music, and minister of children and minister of youth. Our pastor will be a man of the highest Godly character with God guided leadership and vision. He will be Biblically balanced and have a minimum of five years pastoral experience with a seminary degree from an accredited seminary. After prayerful consideration, please submit resumes including details of your salvation experience and calling by God to be a pastor, to: Pastor Search Committee, Zoar Baptist Church, 1740 S. Lafayette Street, Shelby 28152

Zoar Baptist Church of Shelby is currently seeking a **part time youth leader**. This position consist of 10 hours per week. The duties include but are not limited to, leading Sunday morning and Wednesday night youth bible study. For a complete list of responsibilities interested candidates should send questions and or resumes to: youthsearch@zoarchurch.com or Zoar Baptist Church Youth Committee 1740 South Lafayette St. Shelby NC 28152

If any of these positions have been filled please let me know at nicole@gccba.org

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THE BEACON

STAFF, PHONE EXTENSIONS & EMAIL

Associational Missionary:
Wesley Smith, 704-751-1028—
wesley@gccba.org

Missions & Ministry Team Leader:
Katie Harris, 704-751-1069—katie@gccba.org

Hispanic Missionary:
Jose Espinal, 704-751-1088—
jose.espinal231@gmail.com

Office Administrator:
Nicole Mosley, 704-751-1087—
nicole@gccba.org



- 2** – Pastor’s Cohort 2, GCCBA 10:00 am
Pastor’s Prayer Time, GCCBA 11:00 am
Minister’s Christmas Dinner, Elizabeth 6:30 am
- 5** – Grover & KM Minister’s Fellowship, Carolina Crossing 8:30 am,
- 6** – Hungry program Volunteers Needed, at Shelby First, 12:30 pm
- 12** – Lattimore Minister’s Fellowship at Bulldog Quick Snack, 8:30 am
- 13** – Hungry program with Poplar Springs volunteers at Shelby First, 12:30
- 17** – Toy Store Open
Youth Minister’s Prayer Time, GCCBA 12:00 pm
- 18** – Toy Store Open
Pastors Prayer Time, GCCBA, 10 am
- 19** – Polkville and Waco Minister’s Fellowship at Hwy 18 North Café, 11:30 am
- 20**—Hungry program at Shelby First, *Volunteers Needed*, 12:30 pm
- 23-Jan 1**—GCCBA Office Closed for Christmas
- 27**—Hungry program *Volunteers Needed*, at Shelby First, 12:30 pm